

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A seal plate for substantially stopping fluid communication from a plurality of perforated wells of a multi-well block or from a plurality of fluid outlets of a guide plate, said seal plate comprising:

a body having an upper major surface and a lower major surface; and

a plurality of sealing elements depending from the upper major surface; wherein

- (i) said seal plate ~~is configured to seal~~ seals a plurality of perforated wells of a multi-well block or a plurality of fluid outlets of a guide plate when said upper major surface is registered with said multi-well block or said guide plate, respectively;
- (ii) each of said plurality of sealing elements comprises a well, said well ~~configured to matingly seal~~ seals either a bottom portion of a corresponding perforated well of said plurality of perforated wells of said multi-well block or a corresponding fluid outlet of said plurality of fluid outlets of said guide plate when said seal plate is registered with said multi-well block or said guide plate, respectively;
- (iii) each well of said plurality of sealing elements comprises a first channel depending from the upper major surface of said seal plate, an orifice defining an opening at an upper portion of said first channel, and a bottom surface that encloses a bottom portion of said first channel; and
- (iv) said bottom surface of each well of said plurality of sealing elements comprises no aperture and is perforable by a corresponding protrusion on a second guide plate when said second guide plate is registered with said lower major surface of said seal plate.

2. (Currently Amended) The seal plate of claim 1, wherein the seal plate seals all ~~plurality of~~ perforated wells ~~consists of all wells~~ of the multi-well block.

3. (Currently Amended) The seal plate of claim 2, wherein the seal plate seals ~~said guide plate is configured to establish fluid communication between each of said plurality of perforated~~

~~wells of said multi-well block and each of said plurality of fluid outlets of said guide plate when said guide plate is registered with said multi-well block.~~

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The seal plate of claim 3, wherein each well of each of said plurality of sealing elements comprises an inner surface that circumscribes and forms a first fluid-tight seal when mated with either a bottom portion of said corresponding perforated well of said plurality of perforated wells or said corresponding fluid outlet of said plurality of fluid outlets, when said seal plate is registered with said multi-well block or said guide plate, respectively.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The seal plate of claim 5, wherein the bottom portion of said first channel depends from said lower major surface of said seal plate.

8. (Previously Presented) The seal plate of claim 7, further comprising a second channel, said second channel depending from said upper major surface and circumscribing said upper portion of said first channel depending from said upper major surface, wherein a second fluid-tight seal is formed when said seal plate is registered, via said upper major surface, with said guide plate whereby an inner surface of said second channel and an outer surface of a lower wall of said guide plate are mated, said lower wall circumscribing said corresponding perforated well of said plurality of perforated wells or said corresponding fluid outlet of said plurality of fluid outlets.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The seal plate of claim 5, wherein said seal plate ~~is configured to mate~~ mates with another substantially identical seal plate.

11. (Previously Presented) The seal plate of claim 5, wherein said seal plate is fabricated from a material comprising at least one of polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylidene chloride, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), glass-impregnated plastics, or stainless steel.

12-23. (Canceled)